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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/002,906	01/05/1998	THEODORE D. WUGOFSKI	450.196US1	8339

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HAI V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/002,906

Applicant(s)

WUGOFSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Hai Tran

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-18 and 30-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 19-29, 34-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 08/18/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant merely argues (pages 11-13), "Ohkura...does not teach the use of the theme-based favorite lists" and many other limitations without specifically point out errors within the cited references.

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant because Ohkura clearly discloses the use of a theme-based (category-based) favorites list (see Col. 8, lines 37-67) in which Fig. 16 clearly shows five categories/themes that most favorite (Col. 9, lines 38-45). In view of that the Examiner maintains the rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-7, 19, 22-23 and 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura et al. (US 5737029) in view of Hendricks et al. (US 5798785) and further in view of Kostreski et al. (US 5734589).

Claim 1, Ohkura discloses a computerized system for managing favorite channels based on a user specified theme, the computerized system comprising:

One or more favorite channel lists (Fig. 12), the favorite channel lists comprising one or more channels relating to the user specified theme (category), wherein the computerized system identifies the channels/programs showing an event of the user specified theme (category) and automatically adds each of channels/programs to the favorite channel list without user intervention (Col. 8, lines 49-Col. 9, lines 37);

Storing one or more favorite channel lists (Col. 8, lines 4-26 and lines 57-62);

A favorites database for storing one or more favorite channel lists (Col. 8, lines 4-26 and lines 57-62).

Ohkura further discloses means for identifying (CPU 29) channels which relate to the user specified theme, so to create a favorite program guide list as shown in Fig. 12 (Col. 7, lines 63-Col. 8, lines 21)

Ohkura does not disclose, "said identifying being based on programming constrained within a predetermined number of time slots ahead of a current time."

Hendricks, in an analogous art, discloses a terminal suggests programs/channels that subscriber is most likely to watch based on programming constrained within a predetermined number of time slots ahead of a current time (Col. 31, lines 40-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ohkura with the teaching of

Hendricks so to provide to users an "intelligent" methods of learning and analysis of historical data generally gathered in a passive mode by requiring users to selectively selects preference's entries, i.e., preferred time of day, in which these selected entries will accurately be used to suggest groups of programs/channels list to user, as suggested by Hendricks (Col. 3, lines 5-25).

Ohkura in view of Hendricks does not clearly disclose one or more logical channels of the favorite channel list related to user specified theme;

Kostreski shows one or more logical channel (Fig.5 and Col.28, lines 40-Col.29, lines 34). The secondary program maps 520a and 520b both provide the same RF and PID values for CBS, ABC, NBC and FOX; thus, Kostreski discloses an arrangement that enables VIPs to share sources within the reserved section 522 (Col.29, lines 14-29 and Col.29, lines 35-Col.30, lines33). Furthermore, Kostreski teaches each logical channel "SEL." uniquely identifies a corresponding physical channel "VIP StarSight "for popular network such as CBS, ABC, NBC and FOX regardless the user select "VIP StarSight" or "VIP BVS"; Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ohkura in view of Hendricks by mapping favorite channel listed to corresponding logical (virtual) channels, as taught by as taught by Kostreski, in order to present to user an list of programs (EPG) in an organized, structured format adapted for ease of use by the user as suggested by Kostreski (Col.3, lines 15-57);

moreover enable user to conveniently access the broadband services in an organized, structured format offered by the selected information service providers.

Regarding claim 2, Ohkura further discloses an EPG content database storing a plurality of events available on one or more channels for a period of time because the EPG content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend in which the favorite channel list depends on the newly updated EPG data for identifying newly updated Channels (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 3, Ohkura further discloses wherein the user specified theme corresponds to a theme field of events in an EPG content database (Col. 9, lines 38-Col. 10, lines 25).

Regarding claim 4, Ohkura further discloses an EPG data services for managing the EPG content Database, the EPG data services providing functions for loading EPG -type (category) data from one or more data services (Col. 5; lines 10-20);

Regarding claim 5, Ohkura further discloses a favorites service providing one or more user interfaces and a plurality of management functions for each one of the favorite channel lists (Fig. 16-21; Col. 8, lines 38-Col. 11, lines 18).

Regarding claim 6, Ohkura further discloses wherein the management functions include at least one function selected from the group of functions consisting of: adding a favorite event to one of the favorite channel lists, removing a favorite event from one of the favorite channel lists and selecting a favorite event from one of the favorite channel lists (inherently met because the system keeps monitoring and updating by adding/removing/selecting the top 5 broadcasting channels of each category that have been most received/selected by users in the last 4 weeks; Col.8, lines 8-27).

Regarding claim 7, Kostreski further discloses a channel map service for determining a physical channel number and a corresponding physical device for each one of the logical channels (Fig.5).

Regarding claim 19, in combination with claims 1 and 3, regarding "identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more event themes from an EPG content database to the user specified theme," the Examiner cites (Ohkura Fig. 16 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category News; Fig. 17 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category MOVIE...Col. 10, lines 15-27); regarding "automatically adding each of the channel to a favorite channel list wherein such adding does not require user intervention", the Examiner cites Ohkura Col. 18, lines 48-Col. 9, lines 37); regarding "during the step of

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identifying are updated according to a predetermined update frequency" is further met by Ohkura because EPG content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend, as such favorite channel list depends on the newly updated EPG data for identifying newly updated Channels (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 22, Ohkura further discloses an EPG content database storing a plurality of events available on one or more channels for a period of time because the EPG content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend in which the favorite channel list depends on the newly updated EPG data for identifying newly updated Channels. (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 23, Ohkura further discloses the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more words in an event description from the EPG content Database to the user specific theme (Ohkura Fig. 16 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category News; Fig. 17 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category MOVIE...Col. 10, lines 15-27 in which the system will match the desired user specific theme/category with one or more words in an event description, i.e., C1..C5 from the EPG content Database of Fig. 12).



Regarding claim 34, "wherein the logical channels are updated at least one per timeslot" is further met by Ohkura in view of Hendricks and Kostreski because the EPG content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend in which at least one per time slot of the favorite channel list is updated (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 35, "wherein the timeslot is one-half hour in length" is further met by Ohkura (see Fig. 12);

Regarding claim 36, "wherein the predetermined number of timeslots is at least several hours in duration" is further met by Ohkura in view of Hendricks (Col. 31, lines 58-60) and Kostreski;

Regarding claim 37, "wherein the means for identifying comprises a set of predefined keywords that may be selected for use in defining the user specified theme" read on the set of categories, i.e., News, Sport, Politics, etc., in which the user is used in defining the user specified theme that the user would like the system to display (see Fig. 16 in which the user select News for example and a list a favorite channel list under News category is played).

Regarding claim 38, " means for updating the one or more favorite channel lists to include only those of the one or more logical channels that relate to the user specified theme selected from the programming constrained within the predetermined number of time slots ahead of the current time" reads on EPG

content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend in which the favorite channel list depends on the newly updated EPG data for identifying newly updated Channels based on the updated time period of the system, i.e., every 4 hours, 8hours..., (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

2. Claims 8-12, 24-25 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura et al. (US 5737029) in view of Kostreski et al. (US 5734589).

Regarding claim 8, Ohkura discloses a computerized system for managing favorite channels based on a user specified theme, the computerized system comprising:

One or more favorite channel lists (Fig. 12), the favorite channel lists comprising one or more channels relating to the user specified theme (category), wherein the computerized system identifies the channels/programs showing an event of the user specified theme (category) and automatically adds each of channels/programs to the favorite channel list without user intervention (Col. 8, lines 49-Col. 9, lines 37);

Application user interface to allow a user to access the computerized system (see Fig. 13 with GUI).

Favorites services providing user interfaces and management functions for each one of the favorite channel lists (Col. 8, lines 4-26 and lines 57-62); and

EPG content services for determining what is programmed on the television channels (Col. 5, lines 10-38).

Ohkura further discloses CPU 29 for identifying channels which relate to the user specified theme, so to create a favorite program guide list as shown in Fig. 12 (Col. 7, lines 63-Col. 8, lines 21)

Ohkura does not clearly disclose channel map services for mapping a logical channel number in the favorite channel list related to a physical channel number on a physical device available to the computerized device.

Kostreski shows one or more logical channel (Fig.5 and Col.28, lines 40-Col.29, lines 34). The secondary program maps 520a and 520b both provide the same RF and PID values for CBS, ABC, NBC and FOX; therefore, Kostreski discloses an arrangement that enables VIPs to share sources within the reserved section 522 (Col.29, lines 14-29 and Col.29, lines 35-Col.30, lines33). Furthermore, Kostreski teaches each logical channel "SEL." uniquely identifies a corresponding physical channel "VIP StarSight " for popular network (physical device), such as CBS, ABC, NBC and FOX regardless the user select "VIP StarSight" or "VIP BVS" ; Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ohkura in view of Hendricks by mapping favorite channel listed to corresponding logical (virtual) channels, as taught by Kostreski, in order to present to user an list of programs (EPG) in an organized, structured format adapted for ease of use by the user as suggested by Kostreski (Col.3, lines 15-57);

moreover enable user to conveniently access the broadband services in an organized, structured format offered by the selected information service providers.

Regarding claim 9, see analysis of claim 7.

Regarding claim 10, see analysis of claim 6.

Regarding claim 11, Ohkura further discloses a favorites database for storing one or more favorite channel lists (Col. 8, lines 4-26 and lines 57-62).

Regarding claim 12, Ohkura further discloses an EPG content database storing a plurality of events available on one or more channels for a period of time because the EPG content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend in which the favorite channel list depends on the newly updated EPG data for identifying newly updated Channels (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 24, as analyzed with respect to claim 8, Ohkura further discloses a computer (motherboard, processor, RAM, etc...Fig. 3) comprising:

A processor (29);

A computer readable medium (38,37,36);

A plurality of computer instructions (Fig. 11; Computer flowchart represents computer instructions) executed from the computer readable medium by the processor for performing the step of identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme (Fig. 14) and automatically adding each one of the channels to a favorite channel list without user intervention (Col. 7, lines 65-Col. 8, lines 26).

Regarding claim 25, see analysis of Claim 24 and Ohkura further discloses the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more words showing an event description from the EPG content Database to the user specific theme (Ohkura Fig. 16 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category News; Fig. 17 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category MOVIE...Col. 10, lines 15-27 in which the system will match the desired user specific theme/category with one or more words in an event description, i.e., C1..C5 from the EPG content Database of Fig. 12).

Regarding claim 28, Ohkura further discloses an EPG content database storing a plurality of events available on one or more channels for a period of time because the EPG content is updated either "periodically", "cyclical" or "carrousel" mode by the headend in which the favorite channel list depends on the newly updated EPG data for identifying newly updated Channels. (Col. 5, lines 15-20 and Col. 8, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 29, Ohkura further discloses the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more words in an event description from the EPG content Database to the user specific theme (Ohkura Fig. 16 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category News; Fig. 17 shows list of favorite channels corresponding to theme/category MOVIE...Col. 10, lines 15-27 in which the system will match the desired user specific theme/category with one or more words in an event description, i.e., C1..C5 from the EPG content Database of Fig. 12).

3. Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura et al. (US 5737029) in view of Hendricks et al. (US 5798785) in view of Kostreski et al. (US 5734589) and further in view of Schein (US 6002394).

Regarding claims 20 and 21, Ohkura in view of Hendricks and Kostreski further discloses wherein the user specified theme corresponds to a theme field of events in an EPG content database (Ohkura Col. 9, lines 38-Col. 10, lines 25). Ohkura discloses the step of identifying is achieved by matching theme from an EPG content database to the user specified theme by selecting a "theme" from the EPG, the system performs a matching and then presents the result to the user.

Ohkura in view of Hendricks and Kostreski does not clearly discloses the EPG content database include 'event sub-theme' or 'generic event sub-theme' as claimed;

Schein 's 394 shows the structure of an EPG database with theme ID (see Fig.4) that corresponds to 'Theme ID of a Theme Category Table' (Fig. 8).

Moreover the Theme Category Table (Fig. 8) has a relational field 'Theme Subcategory handle Table' which has a relationship with the 'Theme ID #' field of the Theme Subcategory table (Fig.9; Col. 10, lines 60-Col. 11, lines 11) according to the well-known Relational Database's theory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ohkura in view of Hendricks and Kostreski with Schein 's 394 to have an EPG content database include 'event sub-theme' or 'generic event sub-theme', as taught by Schein 's 394, so to provide to user an accurate way to present/query a program with a specific theme/sub-theme entry (Schein 's 394; Col. 11, lines 15-45).

4. Claims 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura et al. (US 5737029) in view of Kostreski et al. (US 5734589) and further in view of Schein (US 6002394).

Regarding claims 26 and 27, Ohkura in view of Kostreski further discloses wherein the user specified theme corresponds to a theme field of events in an EPG content database (Ohkura Col. 9, lines 38-Col. 10, lines 25). Ohkura discloses the step of identifying is achieved by matching theme from an EPG content database to the user specified theme by selecting a "theme" from the EPG, the system performs a matching and then presents the result to the user.

Ohkura in view of Kostreski does not clearly disclose the EPG content database include 'event sub-theme' or 'generic event sub-theme' as claimed;

Schein 's 394 shows the structure of an EPG database with theme ID (see Fig.4) that corresponds to 'Theme ID of a Theme Category Table' (Fig. 8).

Moreover the Theme Category Table (Fig. 8) has a relational field 'Theme Sub-category handle Table' which has a relationship with the 'Theme ID #' field of the Theme Subcategory table (Fig.9; Col. 10, lines 60-Col. 11, lines 11) according to the well-known Relational Database's theory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ohkura in view of Kostreski with Schein 's 394 to have an EPG content database include 'event sub-theme' or 'generic event sub-theme', as taught by Schein 's 394, so to provide to user an accurate way to present/query a program with a specific theme/sub-theme entry (Schein 's 394; Col. 11, lines 15-45).

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any



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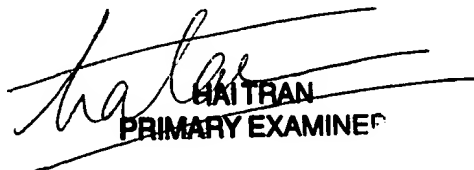
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HT:ht  
11/09/2006

  
HAI TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER